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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/943,438

08/27/2001

Shirley J. Provinse

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EXAMINER

AKINTOLA, OLABODE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3691

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/02/2008

ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

HSOBELMAN@SWLAW.COM  
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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/943,438	<b>Applicant(s)</b> PROVINSE, SHIRLEY J.	
	<b>Examiner</b> OLABODE AKINTOLA	<b>Art Unit</b> 3691	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 March 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5,6 and 25-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5,6 and 25-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)         | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 3/27/2008 has been entered.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-2, 5-6, 11-16 and 25-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

In particular, claims 1, 11 and 25 recite “determining a client cost center on said match upon identifying said match between a travel transaction and a charge transaction” and “determining a client cost center on said near-match upon identifying said match between a travel transaction and a charge transaction”.

The limitations in these claims do not have support in the originally filed disclosure. Applicant is

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requested to cite relevant portion(s) of the original disclosure that teaches these limitations.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-2, 5-6, 11-16 and 25-34 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In particular, claims 1, 11 and 25 recite “a client cost center”. It is not clear what applicant refers to as client cost center. Clarification is requested. For examination purposes, the limitation would be given the broadest reasonable interpretation (such as client’s address, etc).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.

4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-2, 5-6 and 25-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Northington et al. (USPN 6128602) in view of Dunn et al. (USPN 5134564) .

Re claims 1-2, 5-6, and 25-34: Northington teaches a method of providing account reconciliation for an account comprising the steps of: receiving at a computing device, a plurality of travel transactions relating to at least one of: air carrier, lodging and car rental from a database and charge transactions; receiving, at said computing device, a plurality of charge transactions relating to purchases made using a charge account; storing said plurality of travel transactions and said plurality of charge transactions on a pending list within a database of said computing device; matching said plurality of said travel transactions and plurality of charge transactions based upon first criteria, wherein said first criteria includes at least one of: account number, Passenger name. Transaction amount, booking fee, and ticket number; determining a client cost center based on said match upon identifying said match between a travel transaction and a charge transaction (abstract, col. 2, lines 43-53, col. 3, lines 11-20; col. 14, lines 11-23; col. 15, line 37 through col. 16, line 39).

Northington does not explicitly teach; identifying a near-match a near-match among said plurality of travel transactions and said plurality of charge transactions within a predetermined tolerance level based upon secondary criteria; and determining a cost center based on said near-match between said travel transaction and said charge transaction.

Dunn teaches identifying a near-match a near-match among said plurality of travel transactions and said plurality of charge transactions within a predetermined tolerance level based upon

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secondary criteria (col. 3, lines 19- 24; col. 3, line 52- col. 32, line 13; col. 20, lines 26-30; Fig. 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Northington to include these steps as taught by Dunn in order to speed up the account reconciliation process by determining probable matches using matching criteria.

Claims 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Northington in view of Dunn as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Harada (USPAP 20030208440).

Re claims 11-16: See claims 1-2 and 5-6, analyses above. Northington and Dunn do not explicitly teach preprocessing said merchant transactions and said charge transactions to remove from said pending list, a debit value and a credit value which are offsetting transactions. Harada teaches preprocessing said merchant transactions and said charge transactions to remove from said pending list, a debit value and a credit value which are offsetting transactions (section 0049). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Northington to include this step as taught by Harada. One would have been motivated to this in order to cancel offsetting debit and credit.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Malcolm (USPN 6006204) teaches correlation transaction records via user-specified identifier creating unclear transaction.

Black (USPN 7117172) teaches offsetting credit value and debit value (col. 49, lines 51-67).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Olabode Akintola whose telephone number is 571-272-3629. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30AM -5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on 571-272-6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

OA

/Hani M. Kazimi/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3691